

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An elastomeric composition comprising a natural rubber, a halobutyl elastomer, a mineral filler, and a rubber-mineral filler bonding agent, wherein the halobutyl elastomer is a bromobutyl elastomer, a chlorobutyl elastomer or a mixture thereof, wherein the mineral filler is silica and the bonding agent is a silane, wherein the composition does not include carbon black.

Claims 2 and 3. Cancelled.

Claim 4. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is cured with sulfur.

Claim 5. (Original) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the halobutyl elastomer constitutes from 5 to 50% of the elastomeric content of the composition.

Claim 6. (Original) A composition according to Claim 5 wherein the halobutyl elastomer constitutes from 5 to 30% of the elastomeric content of the composition.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing an elastomeric comprising blending a natural rubber, a halobutyl elastomer, a mineral filler and a rubber-mineral filler bonding agent, wherein the halobutyl elastomer is a bromobutyl elastomer, a chlorobutyl elastomer or a mixture thereof, wherein the mineral filler is silica and the bonding agent is a silane, wherein the composition does not include carbon black.

Claim 8. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the natural rubber, the halobutyl elastomer, the mineral filler and the bonding agent are added separately.

Claim 9. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the mineral filler is silica and the bonding agent is a silane that has at least one hydroxyl group or hydrolyzable group attached to a silicon atom of the silane.

Claim 10. (Original) A process according to Claim 9 wherein the silane is aminopropyltriethoxysilane, bis[3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl]- tetrasulfane, bis[3-(triethoxysilyl)propyl]disulfane or mercaptopropyl trimethoxysilane, or a mixture thereof.

Claim 11. (Original) A cured, filled elastomeric composition according to Claim 1 in the form of a tire tread for a vehicle.

Claim 12. (Original) A cured, filled elastomeric composition according to Claim 1 in the form of a tire tread for a truck.

Claim 13. (Original) A cured, filled elastomeric composition according to Claim 1 in the form of an engine mount, a shoe sole or a diaphragm for a pump.